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# Foreign Crops and MARKETS



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## WE MUST REMAIN A TRADING NATION

To realise our aims for world peace, prosperity, and security we must remain a trading nation and a trading commonwealth of nations.

What I say of Britain herself, I believe equally true of the British Commonwealth of Nations as a whole. The British Dominions are not self-imprisoned within the narrow walls of any doctrinaire system of autarchy.

Their prosperity, like ours, is built upon a wide, free, international trade. They are the world's granary and woolpack, they include many of the world's chief sources of supply of oils, rubber, cocoa, tea, fruit, meat, dairy produce, tin, copper, lead, and zinc. . . . The fortunes of the whole British Commonwealth depend upon the freedom not only to trade with the mother country but with all the countries of the world. . . .

What is required all over the world is a continually rising standard of life which, in one form or another, will absorb greater quantities of the world's goods. . . .

*Oliver Lyttelton, British Minister of Production*

**ISSUED BY THE OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D.C.**

## CENTRAL AMERICAN RICE CROP DECLINES IN 1943

Reduced rice harvests in Central America during 1943 so checked the upward trend in that area's rice production that imports again will be necessary in 1944. The Central American rice crop has more than doubled in the past decade, special efforts having been made to expand production since the war. Rice consumption, however, has been increasing rapidly also. Because of a record crop in 1942, the seven countries that constitute Central America were self-sufficient in rice as a group for the first time last year.

The 1943 crop was reduced in some sections by dry weather and in some others by floods. The labor shortage was also a factor. Men who previously had worked in rice fields transferred to defense jobs where they received better wages. Late seasonal rains retarded rice planting in most of the Central American region this spring. This is not expected to affect production in 1944, although it is still too early to forecast the year's harvest.

Because of last season's low production, which now is being consumed, the Central American demand for imported rice in 1944 may be greater than for several years. Imports for consumption in recent years have been relatively small. Prior to the war most of the imported rice came from the United States, Ecuador, and Brazil, with at times, some from the Far East. The Canal Zone, excluded from this survey, usually imported a larger amount of rice than any of the Central American countries.

Rice production in Central America has tended to keep pace with a steady increase in consumption over the past 15 years. A large part of the crop is cultivated by small landowners, who grow it mainly for their own use. Any surplus that is not needed for the use of the immediate household is marketed in nearby territory. Per capita consumption, with the exception of that in British Honduras, tends to be the greatest in the countries that produce the most rice. In the three southernmost countries, where most of the Central American crop is grown, consumption varies from 40 pounds per capita in Nicaragua to 80 pounds in the Republic of Panama, the highest in all of Central America. In the three northern Republics, where production is less per capita consumption ranges from 5 pounds in Guatemala to 15 in Honduras. In British Honduras, however, consumption ranges around 45 pounds per capita.

The climate of Central America is well suited for rice growing, being similar in many respects to that of the monsoon area in Asia. Rice is planted in northern Central America at the beginning of the seasonal rains, which usually fall in May, and is harvested from October to November. In the southern republics, two crops a year are often produced. The first crop is planted and harvested at about the same time as that in the north. The second crop is planted around September and harvested in December and January.

**CENTRAL AMERICA:** Rice production, trade, and utilization, average 1931-1935, annual 1939-1943 *a/*

YEAR	PRO- DUCTION	IMPORTS	EXPORTS	UTILI- ZATION
	: Million	: Million	: Million	: Million
Average	: pounds	: pounds	: pounds	: pounds
1931-1935:	153	: 16	: 1	: 168
1939 .....	188	: 16	: 3	: 201
1940 .....	222	: 14	: 2	: 234
1941 .....	214	: 16	: 3	: 227
1942 <i>b/</i> ....	272	: 23	: 6	: <i>c/</i> 289
1943 <i>b/</i> ....	226	: 18	: 20	: 224

Compiled from official sources.

*a/* Excludes the Panama Canal Zone.

*b/* Preliminary estimates based on incomplete data.

*c/* Includes large carry-over.

The Republic of Panama is the most important rice producer in Central America. Production has been expanding steadily, due chiefly to Governmental encouragement. The crop reached an all-time record level in 1942. Government measures have included aid in the application of scientific methods, expansion in farm credit, and encouragement in the use of farm machinery, obtained mainly from the United States. Rice is produced in all Provinces, but the most intensive cultivation is in the south central part of



the Republic. Because of unfavorable weather last year, shortages are reported in the current rice supply, and larger imports may be required.

Costa Rica produces about 90 percent of its rice requirements. Experiments have been made in acclimatizing rice, and a protective tariff has been placed on rice imports. In November 1943, a law was enacted to aid farmers in the production of four basic foodstuffs, one of which was rice. A specified sum was set aside to be used for issuing contracts to producers, with a guaranty to purchase the crops at fixed prices. As a result of floods last December, the rice crop was estimated to have been reduced by about 30 percent, and the expectation is that a severe shortage will be experienced before the next crop is harvested.

Before the war the rice crop in Nicaragua about met domestic requirements. In an effort to increase production the Government attempted to organize the industry and provided producers with modern threshing equipment. About 6 million pounds of rice were exported in 1943 from the preceding year's large harvest. The National Bank of Nicaragua increased its loans during 1943 for cultivation in the valleys along the east coast, but the drought damaged the crop to such an extent that exports this year will be negligible. It is expected that rice production will continue to increase.

In El Salvador, high food prices, particularly in the last half of 1943, renewed

interest in expanding the production of basic food crops, including rice. Upland rice is the third largest crop in El Salvador, ranking next to corn and beans. Production has increased steadily in the past 10 years. About 45 percent of the crop is grown in the central part of the country, approximately 35 percent in the eastern district, and the balance in the western zone. Exports over a period of years, although relatively small, have increased from 4.0 million pounds in 1942 to 10.6 million in 1943.

Guatemala produces its own rice requirements now five times as large as 10 years ago. In the principal areas where rice is produced, along the south and west Pacific Coast, some modern machinery has been introduced. The Government of Guatemala has encouraged production by imposing a duty on imports and by providing literature on improved methods of cultivation.

The Republic of Honduras is still a minor rice-producing country, although it possesses several potential rice-growing districts. Most of the country's crop is grown along the northwest coast. Production has shown a definite upward trend in the past 10 years, but growers, as well as millers, have been handicapped by a shortage in transportation facilities. Any further expansion probably will depend on the extent to which growers can find means to ship their product. About 30 percent of the 1943 crop is estimated to have been lost as a result of a drought last June.

**CENTRAL AMERICA:** Rice production, by countries, average  
1931-1935, annual 1938-1943 *a/*

COUNTRY	AVERAGE 1931-1935	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds
Panama, Republic of ...	30	58	47	53	63	89	<i>b/</i>
Nicaragua .....	71	60	48	67	45	<i>c/</i> 68	45
Costa Rica .....	28	33	32	31	31	<i>c/</i> 35	26
El Salvador .....	9	17	22	24	29	<i>c/</i> 35	33
Guatemala .....	5	18	27	24	30	<i>c/</i> 32	<i>b/</i>
Honduras .....	9	14	13	20	17	20	<i>b/</i>

Compiled from official sources.

*a/* Milled basis. *b/* Not available.

*c/* Estimate based on incomplete data.

In British Honduras rice production is confined mainly to areas along the Atlantic coast in the central and southern part of the colony. Although the Government is encouraging an expansion in production, the

crop is still of minor importance compared with that in the other countries of Central America. The bulk of the rice requirements, averaging around 2,500,000 pounds annually, still has to be imported.

L. Thelma Willahan

## SOUTH AMERICAN BEEF-EXPORTING COUNTRIES RECOVERING FROM 1943 DROUGHT

Pasture and cattle conditions in the important beef-exporting countries of South America at the beginning of the winter season (June 1) appear to be generally satisfactory. Compared with a year ago, when pastures were just beginning to recover from a period of 6 months of drought, the improvement is marked. The drought of late 1942 and early 1943 resulted in a heavy slaughter of cattle last year but with weights greatly reduced. Slaughtering this year will probably be smaller but average dressed weights will be heavier.

Early estimates placed the 1944 beef exports from the four important exporting countries, Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, and Paraguay, at a little over 2 billion pounds, dressed-carcass (bone-in) basis. This was approximately the same as in 1943, but 18 percent above the average for the 5 years 1934-1938. Present prospects indicate that exports will be as large as originally anticipated except from Brazil.

As the season advances, it is becoming increasingly evident that beef exports from Brazil will not be as large as anticipated. Normally Brazil accounts for about 10 percent of the South American beef exports, but in 1942 it furnished 20 percent of the total. Indications are that exports from the São Paulo-Rio de Janeiro area will be much smaller than average. That area usually supplies about 45 percent of the country's total beef exports. Several factors have combined to bring about a reduction in exports this year, the most important being reduced cattle numbers and increased local consumption of beef.

The policy of the Brazilian Government has been to protect domestic consumers by holding the price of meat down to 1941 levels. To do this, it was found necessary to control the prices paid for cattle by packing companies and dried-meat plants. Controls have been fairly effective as applied to the distribution and sale of fresh meat, because most of the business is concentrated in the hands of only four packing companies, thus greatly facilitating Governmental supervision. Charque, a dried-meat product,

on the other hand is prepared by numerous small slaughterers who cannot be so effectively controlled. While the Government can limit the price paid by packers for cattle, it cannot force producers to sell them. Many cattlemen have other sources of income and are in position to hold their cattle for some time.

Recently, the Brazilian Government abolished the so-called 'tabela' or price limits for cattle, permitting packing companies to purchase at whatever price they choose so long as retail meat prices in the domestic market do not exceed fixed ceilings. This arrangement tends to reduce the margins of packers, who claim they are operating at a loss. Packers' difficulties in competing for cattle are further aggravated because the Government is permitting relatively higher prices to be charged for charque or dried meat than for fresh meat.

In Rio Grande do Sul, which usually furnishes the remaining 55 percent of Brazil's beef exports, the outstanding feature of the first 3 months of this year was the increased slaughter of cattle for the production of charque. Producers of that product are guaranteed a good price provided they pay 1.60 cruzeiros per kilogram (14 cents per pound) for cattle. It is estimated that approximately 186,000 cattle were slaughtered for charque in the first quarter of 1944, and that slaughter for the entire year will reach 300,000, as compared with 128,000 in 1943. Slaughter by packing companies in the first quarter totaled only 66,000 head.



June 1 pasture conditions in most of Argentina were reported to be good to very good. Similar conditions were reported with respect to alfalfa fields. With the exception of isolated cases of foot-and-mouth disease, principally in the west and north-west of the Province of Buenos Aires, the health condition of cattle was generally good, and animals were said to be in good flesh. Floods early in April caused considerable losses in the southern part of the Province, the heaviest mortality being in sheep. Much damage also was done to fencing.

Monthly slaughter of cattle in Argentina has declined somewhat since January, when it was considerably larger than a year earlier. Average dressed weights, however, are substantially above last year. Early forecasts to the effect that Argentine beef exports in 1944 would show a material increase appear to be borne out by the shipments in the first quarter of the year which were 46 percent above those for the corresponding period a year earlier.

Pasture and feed conditions in Uruguay have shown a substantial improvement over a year ago. Heavy rains in January resulted

in improved pasture conditions throughout the country and especially in the north-eastern section where it had been extremely dry. These favorable conditions have continued to date.

Slaughter in Uruguay during the first 4 months of the year was materially smaller than in the corresponding period last year when marketings were large because of the drought. It also was smaller than in the 2 preceding war years. The total for the period was only 236,000 head compared with 624,000 during the same months of 1943 and an average of 460,000 for those months in 1941 and 1942.

A substantial decline in beef exports from Uruguay was forecast for 1944 because of the serious drought conditions last year. Current market receipts indicate that exports will be considerably below those of other war years, especially 1943, and also somewhat under normal. Cattle-producing regions in Paraguay are still suffering from drought. Only under extremely favorable conditions, unlikely at this date, can the beef production for export equal the average of the past 3 years.

*Esther H. Johnson*

### ARGENTINA HARVESTS RECORD RYE CROP

The 1943-44 rye crop harvested during November-January in Argentina is now estimated officially at 25,583,000 bushels. While an outturn of this size would still be a record production, it is sharply reduced from earlier official reports. Early season forecasts placed the crop as high as 55 million bushels, which was subsequently reduced to around 39 million bushels, the official estimate released in January. Even at the reduced figure, however, the estimate was not considered to take full recognition of the acreage pastured. The current estimate contrasts with the preceding crop of slightly less than 6 million bushels and the former record production of 15.6 million bushels in 1934-35.

The uncertainty in estimating the size of the crop is said to stem from the fact that rye is grown in Argentina primarily as a pasture crop, and the proportion of the acreage harvested for grain varies considerably from year to year, depending on the condition of the natural pastures. Some acreage is sown expressly for grain, but the greater part of the seeded area is used for grazing. Seeding takes place in the late summer, usually from February through May, and the green crop is used as pasture during the winter and early spring.

In years in which the weather favors growth of natural pasture land, cattle and sheep are removed from the rye early enough to allow for the development of a crop of grain. When spring pastures are poor, however, grazing continues, and only a small proportion of the acreage matures as grain. These factors make estimation of the harvested acreage difficult, and no data have been published for crops later than 1939-40. In some years it also makes early season production estimates subject to substantial revisions.

Yields per acre are not only variable but are extremely low, averaging normally only around 10 bushels per harvested acre, and they are, of course, much lower than that on a seeded-acreage basis. Unless prices are relatively favorable for rye, the low yields per acre often do not justify the cost of harvesting on much of the grazing area. Sufficient rye is harvested, however, to fill the country's requirements, with some excess for export. Argentina has long been one of the principal exporters in the world rye trade.

The rye acreage has expanded considerably during the past decade, and has been especially large during the past 2 seasons. The expansion is attributed largely to high cattle prices and to recent droughts, which emphasized the need for supplementary pasturage. Reports indicate that the high level of seedings was continued in 1944, and that the acreage sown for harvest in 1944-45 was about as large as the record 1943 area.

Supplies of rye available for export in Argentina are estimated to total upward of 18 - 19 million bushels, based on the latest indications of production. The surplus figure includes from 2 to 2.5 million bushels already bought and stored in the country for the account of exporters. Stocks at the

present level would be almost five times the average exports during the past 10 years. Domestic consumption for food is estimated at about 0.6 million bushels and seed requirements at 6.5 million. About a third of the total stocks were indicated to be in commercial positions on May 1, with a large part held by exporters and country dealers. Rye stocks are said to be divided almost equally between areas tributary to the port of Buenos Aires and to the port of Bahia Blanca. While storage space is limited, as the result of record supplies of grain in the country, no particular problem of deterioration is expected in the case of rye.

The Argentine Government does not support rye prices and imposes no restrictions on trading, either for domestic use or for export. Prices in recent months strengthened considerably, rising from the April average of about 46 cents per bushel to around 60 cents per bushel in June, for both cash transactions and for September delivery. They are still somewhat lower, however, than prices prevailing a year earlier when a reduced crop was harvested and the feed and pasture situation was less favorable.

*Based on reports from the  
American Embassy in Buenos Aires.*

**ARGENTINA:** Rye acreage, production, exports and apparent domestic disappearance,  
1933-34 to 1943-44

YEAR	ACREAGE		PRODUCTION	EXPORTS	APPARENT DOMESTIC DISAPPEARANCE
	SEEDED	HARVESTED			
	: 1,000 acres	: 1,000 acres	: 1,000 bushels	: 1,000 bushels	: 1,000 bushels
1933-34 .....	1,768	718	7,249	4,161	3,088
1934-35 .....	2,134	1,317	15,645	9,425	6,220
1935-36 .....	1,749	573	6,023	5,298	725
1936-37 .....	3,136	1,089	8,483	3,635	4,848
1937-38 .....	2,963	504	5,169	206	4,963
1938-39 .....	2,410	1,070	14,616	7,671	6,945
1939-40 .....	2,296	1,233	14,566	6,551	8,015
1940-41 .....	3,327	b/	9,460	1,291	8,169
1941-42 .....	2,661	b/	5,511	161	5,350
1942-43 .....	4,292	b/	5,941	282	5,659
Average .....	2,674	b/	9,266	3,868	5,398
1943-44 .....	4,509	b/	25,583	c/ 150	

From official and unofficial sources.

a/ Trade for calendar year. b/ Not available c/ January-May only.



# LATE COMMODITY DEVELOPMENTS

## GRAINS AND GRAIN PRODUCTS

### PERU PLANS WHEAT-GROWING CAMPAIGN FOR LIMA-CALLAO AREA

The Peruvian Government has announced the opening of a wheat-growing campaign in the Provinces of Lima and Callao, in an effort to expand domestic production and thereby lessen the country's dependence on imported supplies. A new rust-resistant type of wheat developed at La Molina Agricultural Experiment Station is being planted on a commercial scale this year.

The new variety, known as Maria Escobar, is a hybrid, developed from Argentine types and is the outgrowth of 12 years of experimentation at the Station. During that time it has proved to be of high quality and has shown strong resistance to black and brown rust, which had up to that time made successful cultivation of wheat in the coast areas impossible. While the success of this wheat in combatting rust has been encouraging in the small-scale plantings made so far, its immunity to all types of rust encountered in Peru has not yet been established. To that end, small experimental plantings are planned in scattered valleys of the region, which will demonstrate the variety's adaptability to local conditions.

The Government has purchased about 1,725 bushels of seed wheat, a large part of which was intended for seeding upward of 900 acres in the Lima area from the middle of May to the end of June 1944. The seed was to be advanced to farmers and seeding and threshing machinery made available to them at moderate rental rates. With the grain from this crop available for sowing in 1945, seedings of around 15,000 acres are planned for next year. Wheat would be planted mostly on cotton or flax lands, rather than at the expense of other food crops, according to present plans. The advantage of a new crop for rotation with cotton and flax is also pointed out.

The purchase price of wheat in this area is to be determined by the hectoliter

weight, and will be based on the price per quintal of flour in Lima at the time of the sale. The absence of high transportation charges would permit more favorable prices to be fixed for this region than in other areas in which transportation charges constitute a considerable item.

### CUBA PLACES EMBARGO ON CORN EXPORTS

An embargo was placed on corn from Cuba, according to the terms of a resolution of the Office of Price Regulation and Supply, dated June 12. In the resolution, corn is placed on the list of critical commodities, thereby subjecting it to export prohibition by the Cuban Board of Economic Warfare. That board is authorized to grant special export licenses for commodities subject to export embargoes, at its discretion. It is expected, therefore, that any corn declared by the Ministry of Agriculture to be surplus will receive such special licenses.

The measure also prohibits the use of corn domestically for uses other than for human food or for feed. The resolution is said to be directed primarily at preventing the use of corn in the manufacture of alcoholic beverages in Cuba, since the present corn supply is not expected to exceed domestic food requirements. The 1944 crop will not be harvested until about September. While there are as yet no reliable estimates of the acreage planted, present indications point to the country's having little if any surplus this year. Purchases from the 1943 crop were about 270,000 bushels, and exports averaged 100,000 bushels in 1933-1942.

## VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS

### CANADIAN SUNFLOWER-SEED ESTIMATE REVISED

A survey of growers to whom sunflower-seed was distributed in 1943 has been completed by the Canadian Government. The results disclose that not only was the estimate of acreage, which was based on the

distribution of seed, much too high, but a large proportion of the seeded acreage was not harvested due to damage from frost and to the failure of the crop to mature. The actual area harvested was only 12,370 acres and production, 5.3 million pounds. Of this quantity 5.0 million pounds had been marketed by the middle of May. None of the deliveries, however, had been processed up to that time. Crushing facilities are expected to be in operation this fall at Altona, Manitoba, and Moose Jaw in Saskatchewan.

No official announcement of farmers' intentions to plant sunflower-seed in 1944 has been made so far. The Government goal is 50,000 acres. There has been no change in the price of 5 cents per pound that the Canadian Wheat Board will pay for top grades from the 1944 crop.

#### ARGENTINE FLAXSEED PRODUCTION REVISED DOWNWARD

According to the third official estimate, Argentine flaxseed production is now placed at 62 million bushels, representing a decrease of 7 percent compared with an earlier forecast. Reports indicate that the quantity of flaxseed to be crushed for fuel may be larger than the original program called for.

#### CHILE PLANS INCREASED PRODUCTION OF OLIVE OIL

The Chilean Ministry of Agriculture recently announced a Government project under which 2,000,000 olive seedlings will be planted on 50,000 acres during the 5 years, 1944 to 1948. Production of olive oil from the 7,000 acres of olive groves already in existence averages about 1,500 short tons and is expected to reach 10,000 to 11,000 tons when the new trees planted during the 5-year period reach bearing age. Allowance is made for reserving about 10 percent of the olives from the new areas for pickling.

When production reaches the stated level, it will exceed domestic requirements by 5,000 tons or more, provided development of other oilseed programs is maintained

according to present plans. The new project is part of an over-all program initiated several years ago to raise Chilean vegetable oilseed production to a self-sufficiency basis. The olive-oil plan envisages the provision of Government loans where necessary for the establishment of nurseries, processing plants, storage, and other facilities.

#### POOR SESAME CROP IN VENEZUELA INTENSIFIES OIL SHORTAGE

A short sesame crop in Venezuela and inability of importers to get copra and babassu nuts have caused a serious shortage of vegetable oils in that country. Manufacturers of soap, candles, vegetable shortening, and edible oils have been forced to close at intervals in recent months for lack of raw materials. A number of oilseed crops are produced in Venezuela on a small scale but the total production of oilseeds under favorable conditions is usually insufficient for domestic requirements. Imports of vegetable oils and oilseeds into Venezuela normally total around 6,000 short tons (oil equivalent).

#### COTTON AND OTHER FIBERS

##### SOUTHERN RHODESIA SHOWS INTEREST IN COTTON INDUSTRY

Cotton cultivation and processing in Southern Rhodesia are receiving renewed interest, according to recent reports. Cotton has been cultivated in Rhodesia for more than 20 years, but production has never exceeded 2,000 bales (of 478 pounds). Up to the past year, there has never been any type of processing equipment for cotton textiles in the Colony.

With the advent of the war, and subsequent tightening of textile imports, which for the most part traditionally came from England, considerable interest has been evidenced in a governmental plan to foster cotton production and textile manufacture. The Cotton Research and Industry Board was formed late in 1942, with power to establish and develop within the colony cotton textile



and allied industries, and to conduct research work on cotton, insect pests, and other diseases. In addition, to encourage production, the Government of the colony guaranteed the price of cotton to producers for a period of 5 years at about 15 cents per pound, less ginning costs.

Results of this program are evidenced in the establishment of cotton-spinning mills, with a total of 17,000 spindles and of a factory for the manufacture of blankets, to supply about half of the annual pre-war import of one and a half million blankets. Production of cotton has increased from the 1935-1938 average of about 500 bales a year to about 1,500 bales in each of the past 2 years.

#### REDUCED ESTIMATE OF BRAZILIAN JUTE CROP

The 1944 jute crop in Brazil is now estimated at about 11,000,000 pounds or approximately the equal of the 1943 crop. (See Foreign Crops and Markets of March 13, 1944.) The reduction of about one-third from earlier estimates is the result of flood damage and curtailed cutting because of a tendency toward lower prices. The cost of labor makes production unprofitable to many growers at the present price. The family-size farm, on which production is not dependent upon the hiring of seasonal labor, has been most satisfactory in Brazil, with two jute crops per year.

#### SANSEVIERIA IS GROWN IN THE BAHAMAS

Sansevieria has been planted on about 2,000 acres of newly cleared land in the Bahamas and will be ready for the first cutting of leaves in 1946. It requires about 18 to 24 months to mature. Decortication will be done by machines that do not require retting. Funds for the project have been provided by the Government and experiments looking to a wider use of the fiber are being made. The land is fully utilized and shade furnished for the principal crop by the planting of food crops such as bananas, corn, and beans between the sansevieria.

The plant grows wild in the tropics of

the eastern hemisphere, but also grows well in tropical America. The fiber, very often called bowstring hemp, is stronger than jute and can withstand quite satisfactorily the effect of seawater. It can be used in rope as a substitute for sisal, and in some instances, as a substitute for flax. Experiments in mercerization have been planned.

#### TOBACCO

##### ONTARIO'S 1944 FLUE-CURED TOBACCO OUTLOOK FAVORABLE

Unusually favorable weather conditions at planting time, ample supplies of plants and fertilizers, and the removal of acreage restrictions have made Ontario's 1944 flue-cured tobacco outlook extremely promising. Planting was completed 10 days earlier than usual - about June 10. Although exact data regarding the planted area are not yet available, the total 1944 flue-cured acreage of the Province is expected to be about 70,000 acres. With favorable growing conditions, such an area should produce about 100 million pounds of leaf. A number of the important growers last season experimented with oil heat for curing. Finding that a more satisfactory method than the use of wood and coal, they are reported to have installed oil heating in all new kilns for their 1944 operations.

In 1943 largely because of unfavorable weather conditions and shortages of labor and fertilizers, Ontario's production of flue-cured leaf amounted to only 58.2 million pounds from 55,800 acres. The average for the 3 years, 1940-1942, was 56.7 million pounds from 50,000 acres. The bulk of Canada's flue-cured tobacco is grown in Ontario. In spite of a number of factors conducive to greatly increased production this year, Ontario growers fear that labor shortages, particularly at harvesttime, may prevent attainment of the anticipated outturn. Efforts now are being made to obtain skilled primers and curers from the southern United States to aid in harvesting. Growers feel that Selective Service control of Canadian workers on flue-cured farms will reduce the number of local workers available.

## CANARY ISLANDS LIMIT TOBACCO PRODUCTION

A recent order of the Canary Islands' Economic Command restricted production of leaf tobacco during 1944 to about 2.2 million pounds, compared with the estimated 1943 production of about 3 million pounds. Before the war, the Islands produced annually about 1 million pounds of leaf for use in blending with better-quality foreign leaf in the manufacture of tobacco products. In recent years, however, lack of foreign exchange for the purchase of tobacco from abroad has stimulated domestic production to such an extent that overstocking of domestic leaf has resulted.

In order to insure the usage of domestic leaf by manufacturers, the Economic Command has ordered them to keep on hand at all times equal quantities of Canary and foreign leaf. Manufacturers state that this regulation will force them to use mixtures containing one-half low quality domestic leaf and that, as a result, the final product will be inferior. It is reported that the stocks of foreign leaf are low, and negotiations may soon be undertaken to obtain additional supplies from abroad.

## FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

## EGYPTIAN CITRUS CROP LARGER

The 1943-44 citrus-fruit crop in Egypt amounts to 20,716,000 boxes. This is larger than the 1942-43 crop but lower than the record crop of 1940-41. The better crop in 1943-44 is due to a higher yield after two rather poor seasons. Of the 29,000 acres planted to citrus, 63 percent were planted to oranges, 25 percent to tangerines, and 12 percent to limes

CITRUS FRUIT: Production in Egypt,  
1940-41 to 1943-44

COMMODITY	1940-41	1941-42	1942-43	1943-44
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	boxes	boxes	boxes	boxes
Oranges . . . .	6,449	4,348	4,665	5,054
Tangerines <sup>a/</sup>	13,110	5,106	6,870	9,208
Limes . . . . .	8,268	5,678	5,015	6,351
Sweet lemons:	130	107	95	103

<sup>a/</sup> Boxes of 84, others 200.

## PALESTINE POTATO CROP INCREASING

Palestine should have plenty of potatoes this year as the 4,500 tons of seed potatoes, which recently arrived, are expected to produce about 30,000 tons for food this fall. The price of seed potatoes to the farmers is high because of the large percentage of spoilage during transit.

Potato production in Palestine has increased greatly since the war. The crop, previously confined to the spring and autumn, has now been spread over three quarters of the year, and more than 6,000 acres of land are now under potatoes.

## EGYPT HAS RECORD BEAN CROP

The 1944 dry-bean crop in Egypt is now estimated at 7,190,000 bags of 100 pounds each. This is a record production, resulting from a substantial increase in the area devoted to this important food crop. The crop, which was harvested in March and April, averaged 16.3 bags per acre, a yield slightly above 1943 but below that of other recent years.

## CANADA EXPECTS GOOD BEAN CROP

The 1944 Canadian bean crop, aided by favorable weather conditions, is making good progress, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. Yields in 1943 were extremely low because of unfavorable weather.

## LIVESTOCK AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS

SOUTH AFRICAN LIVESTOCK  
NUMBERS SHOW INCREASE

Numbers of all livestock except sheep have increased in the Union of South Africa since 1939, according to a census taken by the South African Department of Agriculture on November 15, 1943. Sheep numbers show a reduction of about one percent, thus reflecting results of the 1940-41 drought on the number of lambs saved the past 2 years. Cattle numbers were up 11 percent from 1939. The trend in cattle numbers has been sharply upward since 1936.



The last hog census in rural areas was taken in 1937. The latest census shows that hog numbers have increased by 18.8 percent since that time. Little change has taken place in goat numbers in the past 7 years, the recent census showing an increase of 1.4 percent since 1939.

The purpose of the November 15 census was to determine reasons for a shortage of meats in urban districts. A meat commission that investigated the shortage found that it was due more to such factors as the greatly increased demands for meats and the inadequacy of distribution and price-control measures than to any reduction in supplies of livestock for slaughter.

**UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA: Census of livestock in rural areas, 1943 with comparisons**

CLASSIFICATION	AUGUST 30		NOV. 15,	
	1937	1939	1943	
	Thou-	Thou-	Thou-	
	sands	sands	sands	
Cattle, total ...	11,114	11,779	13,068	
Sheep and lambs :	:	:	:	
Wooled .....	35,763	31,941	30,211	
Nonwooled .....	5,181	6,284	7,677	
Total .....	40,944	38,225	37,888	
Goats and kids :	:	:	:	
Angora .....	696	713	740	
Other .....	5,406	5,351	5,411	
Total .....	6,102	6,064	6,151	
Hogs :	:	:	:	
European-owned..	528	455	629	
Native-owned ..	460	a/	545	
Total .....	988	-	1,174	

Compiled from official sources.

a/ Not enumerated.

**GRAINS IMPROVE CATTLE SITUATION IN PRAIRIE PROVINCES**

Recent rains in the Canadian Prairie Provinces have tended to avert the wholesale liquidation of cattle, which appeared imminent earlier in the year. With pastures and range lands filled almost to maximum capacity, a widespread summer drought would have created a serious situation. Range areas in southern Alberta and southwestern Saskatchewan still need more rain, but the worst danger appears to have passed.

Cattle numbers on hand as of June 1 probably exceeded the all-time record of 10,200,000 head reached in 1921. Numbers have increased in each of the war years from 8,474,000 in June 1939 to an estimated number of 10,400,000 in June of this year. Official estimates for this year have not as yet been released.

Cattlemen in the western Provinces have been cautioned by agricultural leaders for some time that the expansion in cattle numbers has gone about far enough. They are being advised to strengthen their position for the post-war period by improving the quality of their breeding stock.

**SOUTHERN RHODESIA ADOPTS 5-YEAR DAIRY PROGRAM**

A 5-year plan to encourage better dairying in Southern Rhodesia will become effective on October 1, 1944. Dairy farmers will be paid a bonus of 6.7 cents a pound on first grade butterfat supplied a creamery and 3.4 cents a pound on second grade. For milk converted into first grade Cheddar, Gouda, and Roquefort cheese the bonus amounts to 1.7 cents per gallon.

These bonuses will be additional to the summer and winter butterfat prices of 28.6 cents and 37.0 cents a pound, respectively, guaranteed under the price-equalization scheme introduced last year. They will be payable only to producers who can show a qualifying certificate from the Department of Agriculture that certain official requirements were fulfilled, one of which is establishment of proof that 25 percent of the cows recorded during the year had produced a minimum of 150 pounds of butterfat in a lactation of 300 days or less. This standard would be enforced for the first 2 years, after which it would be raised to a minimum of 175 pounds of butterfat, and in the fifth year to 200 pounds.

Southern Rhodesia is essentially a pastoral country, but its natural pasturage is somewhat inferior. Some supplementary feeding, therefore, is necessary during about 8 months of the year. Although production reached 7,300,000 gallons in 1943, it is still short of local demand.

# LATE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

## ECUADORAN CROP PROSPECTS AT BEGINNING OF JUNE

Prospects in Ecuador at the beginning of June indicated fairly good harvests for most crops but not as good as the abundant harvests realized last year.

Subnormal rainfall affected the 1944 rice crop, and while production will be more adequate for domestic needs, the amount available for export this year will not be as large as in 1943.

Indications are that 1944 will be an off year for cacao, with a crop substantially below the abundant 1943 harvest but about the same as in 1942, which was regarded as a fair crop year. Harvesting of

the new coffee crop began in June. Indications were that the crop would be a normal one.

The sugar crop also promises to be a normal one. The Government intends to exercise strict control over all harvesting and grinding operations this year in order that interests of consumers may be safeguarded. The amount of sugar converted to alcohol and alcoholic beverages will be limited.

Rainfall in the cotton growing areas has been subnormal. Despite efforts of the Government to expand production the belief is that this year's crop will be below that of 1941 and that the country will have to import larger than ordinary quantities in 1944 for the expanding textile industry.

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